

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.

Thursday, February 26, 2004.

Met according to adjournment, at eleven o'clock A.M., in an Informal Session, with Mr. Rodrigues of Westport in the Chair (having been appointed by the Speaker, under authority conferred by Rule 5, to perform the duties of the Chair).

Prayer was offered by the Reverend Robert F. Quinn, C.S.P., Chaplain of the House, as follows:

Gracious God, we pause for a moment of personal meditation and prayer and open our hearts and minds to You and Your spiritual gifts, which enable us to address clearly the issues of the day. Your assistance helps us to put all legislative proposals in proper perspective and to think through the consequences of our decisions, now and in the future. As representatives of the people who put their trust in us and in our sound judgements, may we have an intellect open to new information and the insights of others. Inspire us to remain faithful to our principles in resolving issues and to be guided by human and spiritual values in dealing with today's complex needs in our diverse communities. You give meaning and direction to our daily lives.

Prayer.

Grant Your blessings to the Speaker, the members and employees of this House and their families. Amen.

At the request of the Chair (Mr. Rodrigues), the members, guests and employees joined with him in reciting the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Pledge of
allegiance.

Message from the Governor.

A message from His Excellency the Governor recommending legislation relative to improving school performance by implementing recommendations of the Governor's task force on state intervention in under-performing districts (House, No. 4544) was filed in the office of the Clerk on Wednesday, February 25.

School
districts,
performance.

The message was read; and it was referred, under Rule 30, with the accompanying draft of a bill, to the committee on Education, Arts and Humanities. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Resolutions.

The following resolutions (filed with the Clerk) were referred, under Rule 85, to the committee on Rules:

Resolutions (filed by Mr. Driscoll of Braintree) honoring Joseph Peters;

Joseph
Peters.

Resolutions (filed by Mr. Leary of Worcester) honoring the dedication of the new learning center at Quinsigamond Community College in Worcester; and

Quinsigamond
Community
College.

Resolutions (filed by Mr. Scibak of South Hadley) congratulating Wilfred L. Cote on the occasion of his one hundredth birthday;

Wilfred L.
Cote.

Mr. DiMasi of Boston, for the committee on Rules, reported, in each instance, that the resolutions ought to be adopted. Under suspen-

sion of the rules, in each instance, on motion of Ms. Khan of Newton, the resolutions (reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn) were considered forthwith; and they were adopted.

Petition.

David
Ponte,
sick leave
bank.

Mr. Straus of Mattapoisett presented a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of William M. Straus and Mark C. Montigny for legislation to authorize the Trial Court to establish a sick leave bank for David Ponte, an employee of said court; and the same was referred, under Rule 24, to the committee on Rules.

Papers from the Senate.

Cherry Valley
sewer district.

A Bill relative to the Cherry Valley sewer district 2000-2001 project (Senate, No. 2102) (on a petition), passed to be engrossed by the Senate, was read; and it was referred, under Rule 7A, to the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling.

DCAMM,
lease
certain
property

A petition of Thomas M. McGee, Robert F. Fennell, Steven Myles Walsh and Douglas W. Petersen for legislation to authorize the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance to lease certain property, came from the Senate referred, under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on State Administration.

The House then concurred with the Senate in the suspension of said rule; and the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2234) was referred, in concurrence, to the committee on State Administration.

Reports of Committees.

Cervical
cancer,
study.

By Mr. Scaccia of Boston, for the committee on Rules and the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, that Joint Rule 12 be suspended on the petition of Gale D. Candaras, Lida E. Harkins, Peter J. Koutoujian and Carol A. Donovan for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) relative to the elimination of cervical cancer. Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Spellane of Worcester, the report was considered forthwith. Joint Rule 12 was suspended; and the petition (accompanied by resolve) was referred to the committee on Health Care. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Natural
Resources,
study.

By Mr. Greene of Billerica, for the committee on Natural Resources and Agriculture, on Senate, Nos. 1186, 1195, 1197, 1204, 1212, 1218, 1226, 1233, 1242, 1262 and 2043 and House, Nos. 40, 392, 587, 963, 1155, 1156, 1162, 1163, 1164, 1165, 1536, 1909, 2276, 2479, 3002, 3198 and 3819, an Order relative to authorizing the committee on Natural Resources and Agriculture to make an investigation and study of agriculture, environment, preservation and other related matters (House, No. 4539). Referred, under Joint Rule 29, to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently.

Subsequently Mr. Scaccia of Boston, for said committees, reported, asking to be discharged from further consideration of the order; and

recommending that the same be referred to the House committee on Rules. Under Rule 42, the report was considered forthwith; and it was accepted.

By Mr. Greene of Billerica, for the committee on Natural Resources and Agriculture, on a petition, a Resolve creating a special commission to study streamlining the municipal public works environmental permitting process (House, No. 1540, changed in lines 6 and 7 by striking out the words "Clean Water Action" and inserting in place thereof the words "an environmental advocacy group"). Read; and referred, under Joint Rule 29, to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently.

Municipal
public
works,
commission.

By Mr. Greene of Billerica, for the committee on Natural Resources and Agriculture, on a petition, a Bill relative to a definition of a stressed basin (House, No. 390, changed in line 4 by striking out the following: "June 30, 2001" and inserting in place thereof the following: "June 30, 2005"). Read; and referred, under Rule 33, to the committee on Ways and Means.

Stressed
basin,
definition.

By Mr. Greene of Billerica, for the committee on Natural Resources and Agriculture, on a petition, a Bill to regulate the establishment of rates for water and sewer services for low income residences of the Commonwealth (House, No. 2476). Read; and referred, under Rule 33, to the committee on Local Affairs and Regional Government on the part of the House.

Low
income,
water and
sewer
rates.

Orders of the Day.

The Senate Bill regulating the use of Lowell Park in the town of Barnstable (Senate, No. 1935), reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn, was read a third time; and it was passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.

Third
reading
bill.

House bills

Authorizing the Fitchburg Housing Authority to convey certain land (House, No. 4242); and

Third
reading
bills.

Authorizing the town of Pepperell to place a certain question relative to the sale of alcoholic beverages on the towns election ballot (House, No. 4377);

Severally reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn, were read a third time; and they were passed to be engrossed. Severally sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Order.

On motion of Mr. Finneran of Boston,—
Ordered, That when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet on Monday next at eleven o'clock A.M.

Next
sitting.

At twenty-four minutes before twelve o'clock noon, on motion of Mr. Donato of Medford (Mr. Rodrigues of Westport being in the Chair), the House adjourned, to meet on Monday next at eleven o'clock A.M., in an Informal Session.